GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:91
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2008
ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN SRI LANKA AND INDIA
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economic cooperation between Sri Lanka and India is going to be a big boost in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present quantum of trade between the two countries; and

(c) the target fixed for trade between the two countries for the coming years?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) Both India and Sri Lanka have signed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) for trade in goods, which is operational from March, 2000. Now, both countries are negotiating a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). This agreement will deepen and widen the ambit of present free Trade Agreement by including Trade in Services, Investment and Economic Cooperation.

(b) The details of trade between the two countries are given below:

(Figures in US $ Million)

2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08 (Apr-Oct 07)	
Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import
1413.18	378.40	2024.67	577.70	2254.11	470.52	1390.21	277.25

(c) No targets have been fixed.